

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /056 W
----- 052498

R 161030Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4282

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

DA WASHDC//DALO-ILM//

USCINCEUR//ECJ4/7-SAME//

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: ARMORED RECOVERY VEHICLES

REF: A. KUWAIT 4242DTG 190522Z OCT 75 (NOTAL)

B. DA 112113Z DEC 75 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ARMORED RECOVERY VEHICLES FOR GOK DISCUSSED AND
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE THAT USG ADVISE GOK TO BUY BRITISH.
END SUMMARY.

1. GOK ORIGINALLY REQUESTED RECOVERY VEHICLES AS PART OF
THEIR REQUEST FOR ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. IT WAS
STATED THAT RECOVERY VEHICLES WERE FOR USE WITH
LIGHT WEIGHT ARMORED VEHICLES, NOT TANKS; THEREFORE, THE
M578 WAS RECOMMENDED.

2. FURTHER RESEARCH AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE PRE-
SENTED A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PICTURE:

A. WE HAVE ASCERTAINED THAT GOK, AT PRESENT, HAS NO
RECOVERY VEHICLES OF ANY DESCRIPTION FOR ARMORED VEHICLES
AND THAT REGARDLESS OF NOMINAL INTENDED USE, WHATEVER
WOULD BE ON HAND WOULD BE USED WITH ANY DISABLED ARMORED
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VEHICLE. THIS WAS REASON WHY EXTENSION OF FMS CASE FOR

M578 WAS NOT REQUESTED AND P AND A FOR M88 REQUESTED

(REFTEL (A));

B. GOK HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO BUY THE UK CHIEFTAIN TANK.

(WE THINK CONTRACT SIGNED FOR 175.);

C. OUR BRITISH FRIENDS INFORM US THAT TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES ARE NOT PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN CHIEFTAIN PACKAGE. FURTHER, THEY HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO PUSH THE CHIEFTAIN RECOVERY VEHICLE DUE TO HIGH COST (US DOLLARS 500,000 EACH) AND SLOW DELIVERY (ABOUT 3 YEARS).

3. DUE TO SMALL SIZE OF GOK MILITARY, IT IS BELIEVED OBVIOUS THAT THEY SHOULD SETTLE ON ONE TYPE OF RECOVERY VEHICLE FOR ALL THEIR NEEDS -- A TANK RETRIEVER. DIFFERING LOGISTICS AND TRAINING PROBLEMS APPEAR TO STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS VIEW. HAVING PURCHASED CHIEFTAIN, BELIEVE GOK SHOULD GET RETRIEVER BASED ON CHIEFTAIN.

4. P AND A FURNISHED BY REFTEL (B) INDICATES UNIT COST OF US DOLLARS 636,474 EACH FOR M88 WITH 50 MONTH DELIVERY AND THAT SIGNED LETTER OF OFFER BY 15FEB76 WOULD BE REQUIRED. MECHANICS OF PROCESSING LETTERS OF OFFER ARE SUCH THAT IF WE WERE TO RECOMMEND M88, WE WOULD AGAIN BE PRESENTING AN LOA WITH AN UNREALISTICALLY SHORT TIME FOR ACCEPTANCE.

6. SUMMARIZING FOREGOING, EMBASSY NOTES THAT:

A. USG DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE COST/SCHEDULE ADVANTAGE;

B. LOGISTIC SUPPORT FAVORS A SINGLE RECOVERY VEHICLE;

C. LOGISTICS STRONGLY FAVOR VEHICLE BASED ON CHIEF AINSLR BEST INTERESTS OF GOK SERVED BY THEIR PURCHASING CHIEFTAIN RETRIEVER AND THAT PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE OF USG BEST SERVED BY FOREGOING COMMERCIAL ASPECTS AND RECOMMENDING THAT GOK PURCHASE CHIEFTAIN RETRIEVER.

8. EMBASSY PROPOSES TO NOTIFY GOK MINDEF THAT IN VIEW OF THEIR DECISION TO BUY CHIEFTAIN, USG IS OF OPINION THAT THEIR NEEDS ARE BETTER FILLED BY UK PRODUCT VICE AMERICAN.

9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE.

STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
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